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3 soldiers killed in Lebanon

By DAVID RUDGE
Fighting continued in south Lebanon yesterday following the clash north of the security zone late Thursday night in which three members of an elite paratroop unit were killed and seven others wounded.

Hiszbollah squads en route to the zone. The terrorists, however, took the ambushers by surprise and opened fire first, according to the findings of the IDF's initial inquiry. Military sources said it appeared that the presence of a Hizballah squad in that location and at that time was coincidental. One of the soldiers was killed and three others, including the commander of the force, were wounded in the first burst of fire. "There was a sudden burst of fire from close quarters," said Maj. Motti. "There were grenades that we threw and they threw and shooting. The second group, led by my deputy (Shamir), who was killed, joined the fighting. He was the one who led the charge against the terrorists." Maj. Motti refused to leave the field and continued to give orders until Shamir took charge and managed to lead the regrouped paratroopers in a charge against the Hizballah squad, killing at least two of them.

Capt. Eran Shamir - a tribute, Page 2

At that point there was apparently a lull in the fighting that enabled the evacuation of the casualties. The remainder of the paratroopers began to pull back to their pick-up point. By then, however, Hizballah reinforcements were already en route to the scene and their gunners opened fire with mortars, machine guns, and light weapons. Two more IDF soldiers were killed and four others wounded. The helicopter evacuation of the casualties was difficult because of the darkness, the rocky terrain, and the Hizballah fire. IDF artillery bombarded the region with as many as 400 rounds within three hours, supported by helicopter gunships. The helicopters also came under fire from Hizballah and Lebanese Army troops. They returned fire, hitting a Lebanese Army checkpoint and destroying an armored personnel carrier. Despite the heavy fighting, the rescue helicopters were able to evacuate the casualties. The pilot of one of the Blackhawks, Capt. I. flew to the scene three times. His actions and those of his crew, as well as the soldiers on the ground, were praised by Levine. He said the evacuation was carried out in exemplary fashion despite all the difficulties. "The force carried out its mission, despite the difficult circumstances and succeeded in killing the [Hizballah] squad," Levine told reporters. "The evacuation and the treatment of the casualties, according to the findings of the initial inquiry, was done correctly and at a high level, including the participation of the helicopters, especially the rescue helicopter." "The incident was one that we initiated, as part of the uncompleted and increasing war against Hizballah in south Lebanon," Shavak said. "In a war, however, even when you intend surprise, you don't always succeed, and the troops did not succeed in having the element of surprise. They were the ones taken by surprise and we all know the results." "It should be remembered, however, that the terrorists also suffered fatalities, some of whom were killed by the unit. This is war and in war there's no guarantee, even when you are the initiator, that everything will be exactly as you planned." Shavak, Levine, and Mordechai held an initial debriefing with the soldiers involved at an army base in the center of the country on Friday morning. There are to be further inquiries into the incident. Meanwhile, fighting continued yesterday, with Hizballah launching several mortar attacks at IDF and primarily SLA positions in the security zone. In one of the attacks, a direct hit was scored on an SLA outpost, lightly wounding one of the soldiers. There were no other casualties, and IDF and SLA gunners returned fire. Yesterday evening, the IAF again struck at Hizballah targets in the general area of Thursday night's clash. The IDF Spokesman said that the pilots reported direct hits on the targets and that all planes returned safely to base.

Capt. Eran Shamir - a tribute, Page 2

At least two Hizballah gunmen were also killed in the battle, which was followed by fierce fighting lasting into the early hours of Friday morning. At daybreak on Friday, the IAF blasted Hizballah targets in the southern Bekaa Valley, following the heavy night-time bombardments of the region by IDF gunners, supported by helicopter gunships. The soldiers killed in the clash were Capt. Eran Shamir, 22, of Mazeret Batya, where he is to be buried at 4 p.m. today; Staff Sgt. Ze'ev Zommerfeld, 20, of Asseret, where he was buried on Friday; and Staff Sgt. Ran Mezuman, 22, of Tiberias, who was also buried on Friday. Four of the wounded, including the commander of the unit, Maj. Motti, suffered light to moderate wounds and the other three were lightly hurt. Four of the wounded were taken to Safed's Rebecca Sieff Hospital and two were subsequently released. The three others are in Haifa's Rambam Hospital. They were visited there on Friday by President Ezer Weizman, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, and OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine. The paratroop unit, which had split into two groups, was on an initiated operation northwest of the Zumeriya crossing point on the northeastern border of the zone, apparently trying to ambush

small guerrilla-style militia, as well as eliminate some of its fighters and sending a message to those who support them. Only last week, IDF troops ambushed a Hizballah squad, killing at least one gunman and probably wounding several others in a clash in the eastern sector of the security zone. There have been many other successes, and some failures.

The alternative to "initiated operations," a euphemism for ambushes, reconnaissance, and penetrating patrols, would be to give the initiative to Hizballah. It would alleviate its difficulties in infiltrating the zone — despite sophisticated surveillance measures and the fortified outposts in the zone and along the border.

See WAR, Page 4

See WAR, Page 4



Two soldiers cry Friday, as they kneel beside the flower-covered grave of Staff-Sgt. Ze'ev Zommerfeld, killed in the clash with Hizballah on Thursday night.

Albright won't visit until stalemate ends

By HILLEL KUTTNER and news agencies

WASHINGTON — US peace envoy Dennis Ross, who returned to Washington yesterday, will soon return to the Middle East to advance peace talks with the Palestinians, Foreign Minister David Levy said on Friday.

Levy was due to discuss another Ross mission in a second meeting with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright last night, prior to his departure for home. Albright on Friday called Ross's just-completed mission "fairly productive," but turned up the heat on Israel and the Palestinians to move the peace process forward.

Albright also conditioned her first visit to the region on a breakthrough in the stalemate. "I think that clearly there continues to be the need to bring the parties together in a really strong and productive dialogue," Albright told reporters prior to meeting with Ross.

"Obviously, the US will do what we can here and will keep pursuing our role. But it is the parties that have to make the difficult decisions. As for my own plans, as I have said a number of times, I have been deeply involved in this. The questions are: When will I go to the region? The region has been coming here... But I will go when the time is right and when the parties are prepared to really make some of the decisions that are required."

Levy said Israel supports the notion of providing \$50 million in economic assistance for countries supporting peace, most of which would go to Jordan, but would not state how that might be accomplished. The US has acknowledged holding discussions with Jerusalem on the matter, with sources stating the amount would come out of US aid to Israel and Egypt.

"Aid to Jordan is a mutual desire of the US and Israel," Levy said. "It's an important link to strengthen the peace process. I'm sure we'll find a common way to achieve this goal."

Albright concurred, stating that President Bill Clinton has discussed the proposal with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who "shares an interest" in establishing such a fund. "We are now examining with the Israelis details on how best to move forward on this. When we reach a conclusion... we'll be consulting with Congress," Albright said.

Meanwhile, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns rebuked the Palestinians for their complaints about Ross's handling of the peace process, saying that "these ridiculous allegations that somehow be is prejudicial toward some party versus another don't really deserve much comment." Ross "is one of the most respected people in our government. He has the absolute confidence of Secretary Albright. She believes in him and she fully stands behind him," Burns said.

Ross said before heading home on Friday, there is a "very clear desire" to break the deadlock. "I think what is important as I leave the region is that there is a very clear desire to find a way out... to find a way to promote moving towards peace," Ross said after a two-hour meeting with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat in Nablus.

Palestinian officials said Arafat, who had declined to meet Ross on Thursday, told him he wanted the US to take a more active role in mediation. "Arafat told Ross that a greater American role is the only way out of the crisis," said Arafat adviser Nabil Abu Rudeineh. Cabinet secretary Danny Naveh told Israel Radio on Friday that "there is an attempt, apparently, by the PA, by its leader, to create an artificial crisis." Arafat sent a letter to Clinton

complaining indirectly at Ross's performance and asking Clinton to personally step in to salvage the process, Abu Rudeineh said. "Arafat informed Ross that he is not happy with the American mediation role and the Israeli delaying tactics. That is why he sent the letter to President Clinton asking him to intervene personally to resolve the crisis," he said.

The Palestinian cabinet warned yesterday that peace is doomed unless the US gets more involved and forces Israel to freeze settlement construction. A cabinet statement issued after a four-hour session suggested more violence could erupt if the two-month deadlock continues much longer. According to Levy, who spoke with Israeli reporters in his hotel suite, Albright predicted that the atmosphere would improve once the tractors begin work on housing developments promised for Arabs in Jerusalem. But he would not say when that would occur.

The Iranian threat was a key item on the agenda of Levy's meetings with Albright and later with National Security Adviser Sandy Berger. Levy also called "intolerable" the shipment of what he said were 38 fully loaded cargo planes of weaponry from Iran to Hizballah, via Syria. "We are now examining with the Israelis details on how best to move forward on this. When we reach a conclusion... we'll be consulting with Congress," Albright said. Meanwhile, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns rebuked the Palestinians for their complaints about Ross's handling of the peace process, saying that "these ridiculous allegations that somehow be is prejudicial toward some party versus another don't really deserve much comment." Ross "is one of the most respected people in our government. He has the absolute confidence of Secretary Albright. She believes in him and she fully stands behind him," Burns said. Ross said before heading home on Friday, there is a "very clear desire" to break the deadlock. "I think what is important as I leave the region is that there is a very clear desire to find a way out... to find a way to promote moving towards peace," Ross said after a two-hour meeting with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat in Nablus. Palestinian officials said Arafat, who had declined to meet Ross on Thursday, told him he wanted the US to take a more active role in mediation. "Arafat told Ross that a greater American role is the only way out of the crisis," said Arafat adviser Nabil Abu Rudeineh. Cabinet secretary Danny Naveh told Israel Radio on Friday that "there is an attempt, apparently, by the PA, by its leader, to create an artificial crisis." Arafat sent a letter to Clinton

'Teshuva': When parental ambivalence turns to heartbreak

By DAN IZENBERG

According to Prof. Dan Mahler, a key reason *teshuvah* organizations are so successful in winning over adolescents is the latent guilt many secular parents feel about not observing Halacha themselves. This is particularly true of Sephardi families, which tend to define themselves as traditional rather than secular, even when they are not strictly observant, said Mahler, a leader of Ha - the Association to Fight Haredi Domination. So when children take their first, rudimentary steps toward religious observance, he said, their parents identify with them. There are no statistics on how many secular teenagers become *havrin beshuva* - religiously observant. But there are stories: many of them stories of conflict and heartbreak.

Part two in a five-part series

Dalet public housing project in Jaffa. Two of her sons, 17 and 15, have become *havrin*. She believes the reason *teshuvah* organizations have been so successful in disadvantaged neighborhoods is because parents are obsessed with the fear that their children will become drug addicts. Whatever form initial parental complicity may take, those who see their children becoming *havrin* often come to regret it - when it's too late. One such parent is Rina Aviv, whose son Shmulik, 17, dropped out of high school this year and is now studying at a neighborhood *yeshiva*. Aviv is a petite, spunky,

and passionate woman with strong views which she expresses unambiguously, even when they place her in direct conflict with her son, whom she clearly loves and with whom she is just as clearly angry. She lives in a public housing complex in what appears to be a lower-middle-class neighborhood on the eastern outskirts of Tel Aviv. The area still contains immigrant housing built in the 1950s. According to Aviv, Shmulik began his move towards the *haredi* world after his bar mitzva. She does not seem to know much what led to his transformation. After his bar mitzva, Shmulik continued to *do hefilla* and recite his morning prayers. "He said it made him feel good and made him successful in his studies," said his mother. See TESHUVA, Page 4

TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY

INAUGURATION OF THE ALFRED P. SLANER CHAIR IN ANTI-SEMITISM AND RACISM
ENDOWED BY RUTA AND FELIX ZANDMAN

Lecture:
Dr. Dina Porat
Head, Project of the Study of Anti-Semitism

Anne Frank Today - Remembrance vs. Denial

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French left gains on gov't - polls

By FRANCOIS RAITBERGER

PARIS (Reuters) - The campaign for France's snap parliamentary election entered its last week yesterday with the left gnawing at the lead of the ruling center-right.

With seven days to go before campaigning ends Friday night, the latest opinion polls saw Prime Minister Alain Juppe's conservatives likely to win a majority in the May 25-June 1 election, but with a reduced majority.

A CSA survey said the RPR-UDF coalition would win 299 seats to the combined left's 256 - a majority of 43 seats, well down on CSA's forecast of a 80-seat margin a week ago.

Another poll by the Louis Harris institute saw the conservatives and the combined left, with its ecologist allies, tied on 39 percent each.

The Louis Harris poll saw the far-right National Front polling 15%, unchanged from the last poll. But CSA predicted the party would not win enough in the second round of voting to gain any seats in the National Assembly.

Another burst of opinion polls was expected later in the day before a ban on publishing surveys of voters intentions in the week before voting takes effect at midnight.

The ban means no more election polls will be published in France since the second round of voting, on June 1, takes place a week after the first.

"There will be no more polls from Sunday, and voters will thus have to make their decision in democratic meditation," said Socialist Party leader Lionel Jospin.

As surveys indicated that 23% to 38% of voters were still undecided, unconfirmed reports said Gaullist President Jacques Chirac could intervene on behalf of the conservatives after returning from a state visit to China today.

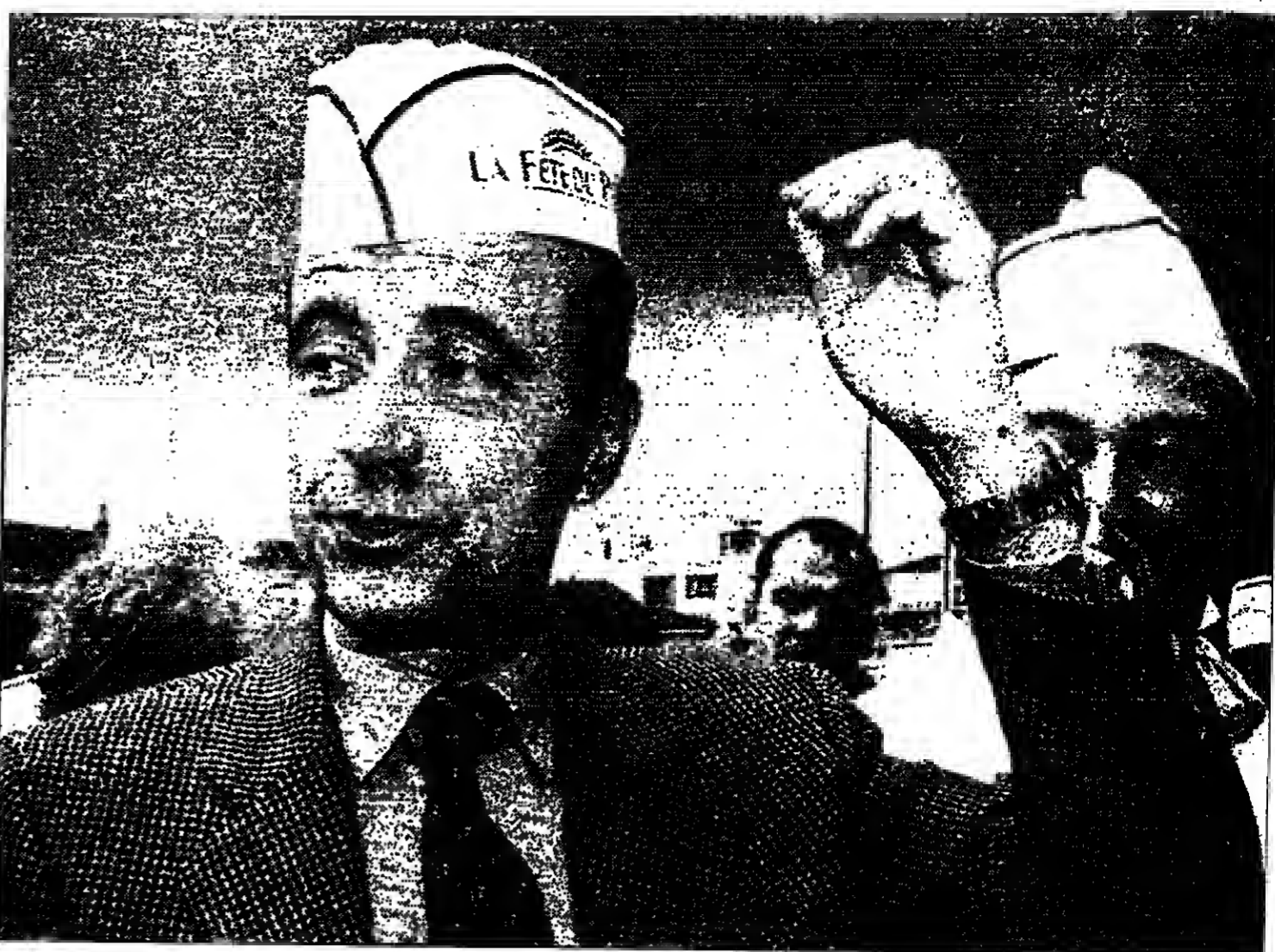
Jospin said a second intervention into the campaign by Chirac, who earlier this month published a newspaper column to back the conservatives, would "distort democracy" and he would demand the right to respond. Alarmed by reports that many

conservative voters could stay away from the first round or cast blank ballots to mark their discontent over economic policies and political corruption, Juppe has warned that protest votes or abstention would favour the left and could return the Socialists after they were routed in 1993.

Foreign policy briefly burst into a campaign dominated by domestic issues yesterday as Jospin branded the downfall of Mobutu Sese Seko in Zaire as a setback for the government.

"What is happening in Zaire certainly seals in a way the failure of France's African policy," he said. France clung to Mobutu long after other western powers had dropped him and was pushed to the diplomatic sidelines as Laurent Kabila's rebels inexorably advanced towards power.

There was no indication whether Mobutu could choose exile in France, where he owns a luxury Riviera mansion. Analysts said Paris was unlikely to offer him shelter until after the election for fear that his presence could become a campaign issue.



French Prime Minister Alain Juppe tries on a baker's hat as he visits a bread exhibition Friday in Bordeaux.

TESHUVA

Continued from Page 1

A year later, Shmulik started to go to a neighborhood synagogue, first on Saturday morning and then on Friday nights. He also began to wear a kippa, first on the weekends, then later all week. At first, the kippa was knitted; later it became black.

At that point, Aviv started quarrelling with her son. "It wasn't that I was bothered about what he was doing up until now," she said. "But I was afraid that he was getting swept away. And I was right."

What troubled Aviv most of all was the feeling that she was losing her son. "When he started observing Shabbat, he cut himself off from his family," she said. "Until his bar mitzva he was a *neshama* [a pure soul]. We were very close. Whenever he had problems or stories about school, he would look for me. That's why the rupture hurts so much."

Aviv recounted bitterly that at some point his rabbi told him not to eat the family food and gave him money to buy his own giant kosher meat.

"The rabbi gave Shmulik money and told him that his mother was bad because she did not keep a kosher home. I asked Shmulik: 'What about the commandment to honor your father and mother?' He replied: 'First God, then your parents.'"

But the most serious battle arose when Shmulik decided he wanted to drop out of high school. Aviv tried to force him to continue. But two weeks after school began, he told her he had arranged a meeting for them with his school adviser.

"There," she recalled, "he told me without shame: 'I can't continue in this school. The rabbis told me I mustn't look at girls. I want to go to a yeshiva where I can study only Torah and only with boys.'"

Shmulik refused her suggestion that he transfer to a state-religious high school in the area, because that school was also co-educational.

"Shmulik, who finished 10th grade with outstanding marks, emerged from the meeting delighted. For me, it was the hardest day of my life. I knew it was the end. My son was no longer my son. They had succeeded in taking my boy away. They beat me."

Shmulik still lives at home, but basically only sleeps there. He leaves the house at 6 a.m. and returns at midnight, or sometimes as late as 2 or 3 in the morning on the nights that he goes off to a yeshiva in Pardes Katz, after his studies at the local yeshiva.

His room is bare except for posters of Rabbi Yitzhak Kadourie and Shas mentor Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, and a few homiletic stickers, including one facing the hallway, aimed at his mother. "Daughter of Israel," it says, "you must dress modestly."

On the one hand, Aviv said she still has one year to try to win Shmulik back while he is still a minor. On the other hand, she also claimed she has given up on him, and her only concern now is to protect her other sons, Liran, 12, and David, 7, from Shmulik's influence.

Recently, Shmulik removed two pictures from the wall in Liran's room, said Aviv. The pictures showed a fully-dressed teenage boy and girl - the girl in tight jeans - embracing each other. Liran was prepared to accept Shmulik's dictate, said Aviv. But she insisted on

putting the pictures back up.

Rahel Fenso, whose sons Shai, 17, and Herzl, 15, have both become haredim, spoke more with sadness and compassion than anger about what had happened to her family.

She is particularly concerned about the younger boy. "He is a fanatic," she said. "With him, everything is either black or white. Either you do something all the way, or you don't do it at all."

Fenso is well aware of the process by which Herzl was won over.

"In our neighborhood, the *teshuva* activists distribute tape cassettes, put up posters, and hold lectures in the community center," she said. "They also hold four-day 'marathons' with different rabbis each day. They use intimidation to influence the children by talking about reincarnation, and heaven and hell. The kids feel like they're high on drugs. It's impossible to extricate them."

According to Fenso, parents often don't mind what is happening. "They are very afraid that their children will take drugs," she said. "They say they prefer to let them become religious. But they don't realize what it means. This type of religion takes away their children."

Fenso said that the *teshuva* activists begin with children much younger than Herzl. "They offer Cremona chocolates and candies to entice them to come to the synagogue and recite the blessings," she said. "I'm talking about six- and seven-year-olds."

Fenso said she was appalled by the change in Herzl. "He went to school during the first month this year. But because in the 'marathon' they said that all the secular girls are filthy prostitutes, the child simply could not stay there. Everything has died for him. Whatever the rabbi says is sacred. I can tell him a million things, but he won't listen. He sits all day and pores over his religious books. Instead of going to school, he spends the day in a kollel with older men."

She said the *teshuva* activists had turned her son into an automaton. One day, she recalled, Herzl got into a shouting match with his sister. The girl was watching television while he was recited the grace after meals in the adjacent dining room. When she told him his prayer was bothering her, he spitefully began reciting the prayer more loudly.

"I got very mad at him and he started to cry," recalled Fenso. "If you don't forgive me, they'll kill me," he said. He apologizes to me all day long. One day he even stood at attention when I entered his room. He holds everything in because he says he mustn't get angry. He's too good. It borders on stupidity. He's like a robot. He is always trying to make sure he's absolutely perfect."

Fenso feels compassion for her son. She says she understands that he is unhappy because he lives in a haredi world and a secular home. But she is angry at those who turned him into a haredi.

"The rabbi has told Herzl that in another three months he'll take him to the yeshiva at Pardes Katz. Then, we can say good-bye to him. He won't return from there. So, why did I raise children in the first place? I want to sue everyone who made my boy into a haredi. I want them to give him back to me and not touch a hair of his head."

Second in a five-part series. Tomorrow: A 'hozer betshuva' tells his story.

WAR

Continued from Page 1

Removing the fear of being caught en route, either beyond or on the edge of the zone, would also make it easier for Hizbullah to carry out attacks - from the planting of roadside bombs and laying ambushes in the zone, to being able to infiltrate enough fighters into a certain area to be able to launch frontal assaults on IDF and SLA positions.

In such circumstances, both the IDF and SLA would find themselves adopting a primarily defensive posture and relying more on protective measures and fast response to minimize casualties and inflict damage on the enemy.

Psychologically, a defensive posture would have a demoralizing effect on the IDF and especially the SLA, and weaken Israel's image in the eyes of the predominantly Shi'ite population of south Lebanon, giving residents even more reason to collaborate with Hizbullah.

Offense is often the best form of defense, and in terms of the war against Hizbullah it has a very definite deterrent value. Initiated operations, however, especially those beyond the zone, are, by their very nature, fraught with danger.

The paratroops involved in Thursday night's clash were in the right place, as evidenced by the fact that a Hizbullah squad was in the area. They just had the misfortune to be moving and therefore audible to the enemy unit, whose members apparently took cover and fired first.

Despite being taken by surprise and suffering casualties, the paratroopers were able to regroup and charge the gunmen, killing at least two of them.

The other dangers of operating behind enemy lines soon became apparent, such as the fact that other gunmen in the region had been alerted and began shooting at the troops, as well as the problem of evacuating casualties from difficult terrain, in darkness and under fire.

The paratroop unit suffered further losses before this part of the operation could be completed. That they were evacuated in an orderly manner is a tribute to the professionalism of the troops and the helicopter pilots - one crew in particular which flew to the scene and back three times - and to the contingency plans which included massive artillery cover and air support.

The problems were further exacerbated by the fact that Hizbullah gunmen fired from within villages, making it almost impossible for the IDF to hit back for fear of harming innocent civilians.

OC Northern Command Maj-Gen. Amiram Levine said there would be a full inquiry into all the aspects of the clash and its aftermath. He said the casualties would "certainly not" affect future initiated operations.

Most defense and academic experts agree that in the long term there is no outright military answer to the Lebanon problem, and that the IDF and SLA can only try to keep the situation relatively stable until a political solution is reached.

SAVE WATER

New Jersey man who killed children to keep them Jewish gets life

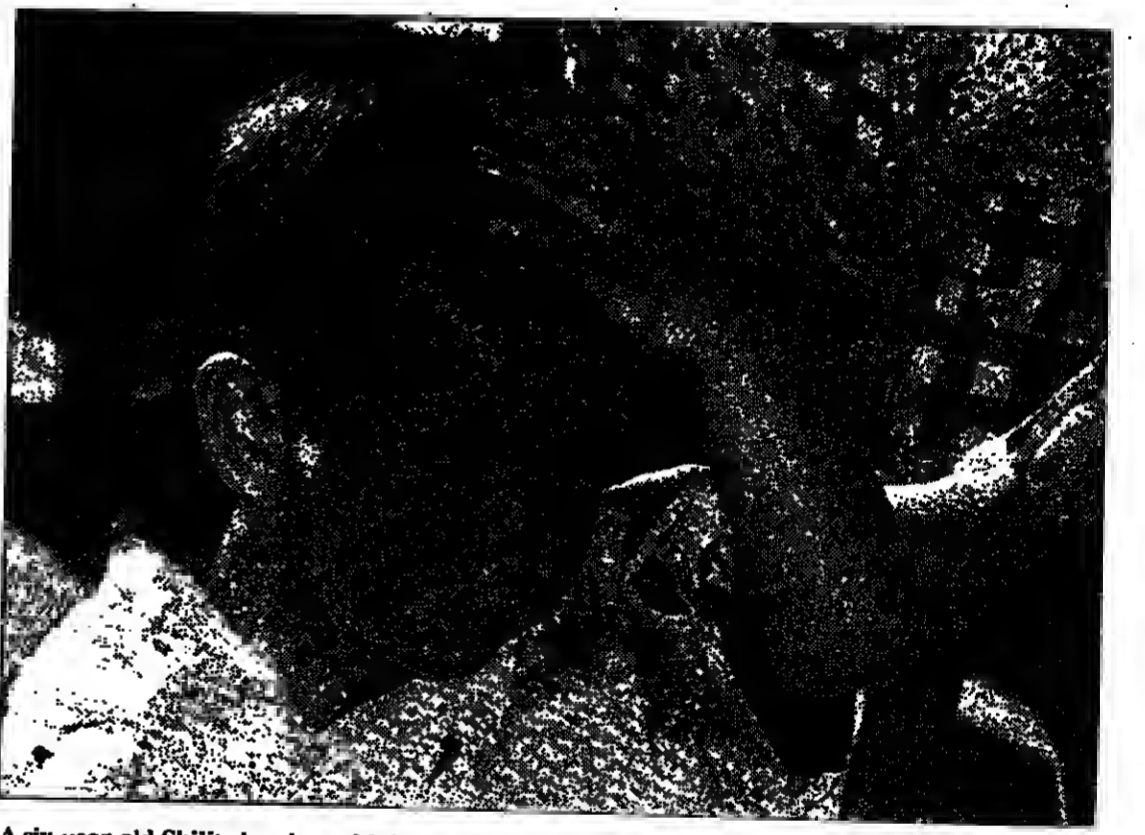
HACKENSACK, New Jersey (AP) - A Jewish man who killed his children rather than have them raised as Christians made a final attempt to blame the deaths on everyone but himself, but a judge blaming his "pathetic vengeance" sentenced him to life in prison.

A former Hebrew teacher, he had claimed he killed 12-year-old Geri Beth and 10-year-old Ryan in June 1994, just days before they were to move to Florida, because his ex-wife and her family were trying to raise them as Christians rather than Jews.

In a 20-minute, tearful, angry speech, he blamed his ex-wife, Lynn Mison, ex-father-in-law, John Sturman Sr. and the court system for pushing him to sacrifice his children. Kosmer had claimed Sturman was an antisemite who was not happy that his daughter married a Jew and tried to turn his grandchildren against their father.

Shi'ites mark festival in blood

TEHRAN (AP) - Millions of Shi'ite Moslems marked the martyrdom of their most revered saint yesterday by smearing themselves with blood - their own or that of animals - and beating their heads and chests in frenzied mourning.



In Tehran, buckets of sheep's blood were poured into the streets for the day called Ashura, and performers re-enacted the battle in which Hussein, the grandson of Mohammed, was cut down by rival forces in 680 CE.

A six-year-old Shi'ite boy beats his head, bloodied with a razor, yesterday in the Lebanese town of Nabatiya for the Ashura religious festival.

Among the world's estimated 100 million Shi'ites - who also live in Lebanon, Iraq and other Mideast nations - self-flagellation expresses their guilt for having failed to help Hussein in his moment of need.

Shi'ites make up about 10 percent of Moslems, but they are the majority in Iran. Shi'ites split from the majority Sunni Moslems soon after Mohammed's death in a dispute over who should be his successor as head of the faith.

The Shi'ites favored the leadership pass to the prophet's son-in-law, Ali, and Ali's son, Hussein, both of whom were slain in the succession struggle.

In Lebanon, black banners draped the streets to mark the anniversary of Hussein's death. Actors dressed in armor ran out of burning tents erected in the streets, mimicking the battle where Hussein and his followers were cut down and their tents burned on the plains of Karbala in modern-day Iraq. Performers portraying Hussein rode on white steeds, followed by black-clad mourners.

Loudspeakers blared laments, as the loud thumps of hands beating chests kept the rhythm of the songs. Women, who do not take part in the self-flagellation, watched and wept.

One mourner, Aiteza Muri, dipped his finger in blood from a slaughtered sheep and rubbed it on the blind eyes of his 6-year-old son Sadeq. "This blood is the holy blood of Hussein, and maybe it can cure my son," said Muri.

Synagogue, mosque bombed in France

LYON, France (AP) - The main mosque in France's second-largest city and a synagogue in a nearby town were firebombed early Friday, police said. There were no injuries.

TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY

INAUGURATION OF THE
**RAQUEL AND MANUEL KLACHKY CHAIR
IN SUBSURFACE HYDROLOGY**

Lecture
**Professor Gideon Dagan
Incumbent of the Chair**

**Engineering Sciences vs. Natural Sciences
- The Case of Hydrology**

on Tuesday, 20 May 1997, at 5:00 p.m.
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ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

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Table of Israeli companies: U.S. Intelligent Info, Israel Land Develop, etc.

Table of Israeli companies: Summit Design, Sapient International, etc.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

Table for NEW YORK international shares.

Table for LONDON international shares.

Table for PARIS international shares.

Table for FRANKFURT international shares.

Table of international companies: Oracle, Intel, Microsoft, etc.

Table of international companies: McDonald, Mead Corp, etc.

Table of international companies: Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer, etc.

Table of international companies: E.G. & G. Corp, Eastman Kodak, etc.

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WALL STREET REPORT

Dow down 139

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Stocks and bonds fell sharply Friday as robust economic news fanned fears that the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates next week.

The dollar was mixed as traders squared their books and the German mark made a broad advance.

The Dow Jones industrial average fell 138.88 points, or 1.89 percent, to 7,194.67.

For the week it was up 25.14 points. In the broader market, declining issues outpaced gainers, 1,432-979, on volume of 485.8 million on the New York Stock Exchange.

The interest rate jitters started boiling after the government reported that housing starts rose by a stronger-than-expected 2.6 percent in April.

Profit-taking and volatility from options trading also fueled the losses.

come a very long way in a short period of time and is vulnerable to some normal profit-taking," said Alfred Goldman, technical analyst at A.G. Edwards & Sons.

The Dow has climbed about 940 points from its close at 6,392 on April 11 to Thursday's record close of 7,333.55.

Goldman said the stock market also had to contend with a "double witching" expiration of individual and index options Friday, which often leads to volatility in the stock market.

Key Representative Rates

Table showing US Dollar, Sterling, and Mark rates.

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

Table of market indexes: DJ Industrials, NYSE Industrials, etc.

NYSE STOCKS

Table of NYSE stock movements: Declines, Advances, etc.

OTHER MARKET INDEXES

Table of other market indexes: FTSE 100, Nikkei, etc.

DOLLAR CROSS-RATES (US)

Table of dollar cross-rates for various currencies.

US COMMODITIES

Table of US commodity prices: Oil, Wheat, etc.

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

Table of spot market metal prices: Gold, Silver, etc.

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

Table of New York metal futures prices.

LONDON METAL FIXES

Table of London metal fix prices.

PARIS METAL FIXES

Table of Paris metal fix prices.

FRANKFURT METAL FIXES

Table of Frankfurt metal fix prices.

WALL STREET WEEK

Wall Street fears interest-rate bug

NEW YORK (Reuters) - If there were such a thing as a Wall Street wish list, it would include an all-purpose repellent to keep the stock market from getting stung by the interest-rate bug.

The interest-rate story was back in the news this week and stock investors were on the edge of their seats, waiting for next Tuesday's meeting of the Federal Reserve, which raised rates in March in a bid to ward off inflation.

The inflation bondholders have been sniffing for clues that the economy is growing at a pace that could put upward pressure on prices.

Another increase in short-term rates would drive up the cost of mortgages, home equity and other loans, as well as the cost of corporate borrowing.

The stock market has been on a roller coaster ride since March, when the Fed raised short-term rates a quarter point, to 5.5 percent, the first increase in more than two years.

The central bank called the increase a "prudent step" to help prolong economic growth by keeping inflation low through the end of next year.

The move triggered a four-week freefall of 700 points in the Dow Jones industrial average between March and April, wiping nearly 10 percent from the world's most closely watched stock index.

The Dow lost 138.88 points to 7,194.67 Friday, but for the week it was up 25.14 points.

The uncertainty that the central bank may move again on Tuesday has shaken market confidence and brought tremendous volatility to stocks.

Daily 100-point swings in the Dow have become so common that they no longer raise eyebrows.

By the end of the week, investors were still flipping coins on whether the Fed would pull the trigger on May 20.

What is making it tough for analysts to anticipate the Fed's move is that economic numbers do not seem to matter any more in the central bank's deliberations.

The Fed is guided by its perception of inflation, making it difficult for most people to get a handle on what it will do.

The latest economic numbers released this past week confirmed again that inflation was not a threat. The Producer Price Index tumbled 0.6 percent in April, its biggest drop in nearly four years, while the Consumer Price Index rose just 0.1 percent.

The concern is that wage pressures will eventually spark inflation. But so far few companies are complaining that salaries are creeping up to earnings-pitching levels.

The reason: productivity gains have offset higher wages.

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

FTSE sets new record

LONDON (Reuters) The FTSE 100 index set another record close on Friday, its ninth of the past 11 sessions, as the market extended its record-breaking post-election surge, boosted from the outset by an overnight Dow record.

The blue chip UK index ended 12.7 points higher at 4,693.9.

FRANKFURT - German shares closed lower than a record high lifted by Wall Street's strong gains, and the firmer dollar which was boosted by markets' perceptions.

EUROPE - The euro's common currency Euro might now be weaker, in light of Germany's scramble to fill budgetary holes, seen as fudging EMU goals.

PARIS - French stocks rose to a third consecutive record close after a ground-breaking advance on Wall Street helped lift the bourse's leading index over the 2,800 mark.

TOKYO - Tokyo stocks ended moderately higher, as issues driven by domestic demand, such as Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp, attracted investors due to the yen's recent firmness against the dollar.

the market was somewhat cautious ahead of the US Federal Reserve's policy-setting meeting this week, which may affect Wall Street stocks.

The 225-share Nikkei average gained 268.42 points, or 1.34 percent to finish at 20,324.75, rising 521.95 on the week.

HONG KONG - After spending much of the day in negative territory, Hong Kong stocks closed modestly higher as leading blue chips reversed early losses.

The Hang Seng Index gained 20.47 points, or 0.15 percent to close at 14,062.37, up 131.57 from last Friday.

CURRENCY REPORT

European economy resilient to dollar drama - so far

LONDON (Reuters) - Europe's fragile economic recovery could be snuffed out by a retrenchment of the dollar but the currency's weakness so far was no cause for alarm, analysts said on Friday.

While the dollar has been hammered by the yen, its fall against the mark has been far less severe, allowing Europe to continue to claw its way out of an economic downturn on a wave of exports.

"I don't think the turn in the dollar we've seen against the European currencies so far is of particular concern," said Ian McCafferty,

director of international economics at NatWest Capital Markets in London. "Small movements tend to be reflected more in changes in profit margins than they do in volumes," he said.

The dollar has certainly been suffering on world currency markets. It has lost just under 10 percent of its value against the yen from a 55-month high of 127.46 on May 1. By Friday, it was quoted at 115.55/60 yen.

Against the mark, it dropped to a 1.67 low on May 12 from a recent high of 1.74 but has since rebounded back to 1.70 marks.

Robert Prior, European economist at HSBC James Capel in London, said that was only a blip compared to the dollar's relentless advance from March 1995 and its recent spurt higher from the end of 1996.

He said HSBC James Capel's Ecu trade-weighted exchange rate had dropped around 10 percent since its recent peak at the end of 1996. And that has been driving European economic growth as weaker currencies make exports cheaper on world markets.

DATA COMMUNICATIONS VIA... CommStock Trading Ltd. Foreign financial data courtesy of...

Tel Aviv shares data supplied by Pacific Mediterranean Investments. Tel. 09-950-5873.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS. Patrah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96). SHEKEL FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES* (16.5.97).

Survey after TV debate: Barak wins

Jerusalem Post Staff

Labor Party leadership front-runner MK Ehud Barak easily won a debate with his three contenders broadcast on Channel 2 yesterday, according to a survey of viewers. The Labor Party holds its election for Shimon Peres's successor on June 3.

The Telesker survey found that the viewer rating for the debate was 15.2 percent, indicating that some 429,000 people watched it.

Of the 900 people surveyed, 29.2% said they thought Barak won. Following Barak were MKs Yossi Beilin (20.6%), Shlomo Ben-Ami (14.6%) and Ephraim Sneh (6.3%). The rest - 29.3% of viewers - did not take a stand.

Asked who had the best chance of beating Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, 57% said Barak, 18% Beilin, 2.4% Ben-Ami and 2.0% Sneh.

The debate, taped on Friday, consisted of questions presented by hosts Oshrat Kordler and Gadi Sukeinik and one-minute answers from the candidates.

The four men, all dressed in suits,

shook hands, posed for a group photograph and were, for the most part, friendly as they stood side-by-side on the stage.

Barak was mostly conciliatory, praising his adversaries and calling for party unity. But at the beginning of the debate, Barak turned to Beilin and, referring to recent surveys that found both could beat Netanyahu in elections for prime minister, said: "You can't beat Netanyahu, despite the surveys."

Beilin retorted: "Ehud Barak can't beat Netanyahu. There are [Labor] members who tell him that we want him to be prime minister, but in a power-world such as ours, you have no chance."

Sneh, a former health minister, laughed at suggestions that he was too "gray" a candidate with a mostly military background. He said he was perceived as serious because he took matters that affect the state seriously.

Ben-Ami brushed aside criticism that he had no experience in politics besides serving as ambassador to Spain. He argued that the Labor Party had "lost its soul" and its social conscience, which he said had alienated poorer Israelis.

Arbel condemns attacks on courts, prosecution

By BATSHEVA TSUR

State Attorney Edna Arbel yesterday condemned the recent attacks on the Supreme Court and the State Attorney's Office, calling them "a dangerous phenomenon."

"It is in the public's interest that they remain strong and immune [from political attacks]," Arbel said, in an interview with Channel 1. "The state attorneys do their work professionally, and I must stress that only relevant matters are considered."

Arbel defended the decision to indict former justice minister Ya'acov Ne'eman, who was acquitted last week, saying that she had taken the decision together with former attorney-general Michael Ben-Yair.

"Ben-Yair did not push me into it and I did not push him," she said. "The investigation showed that there was apparently evidence

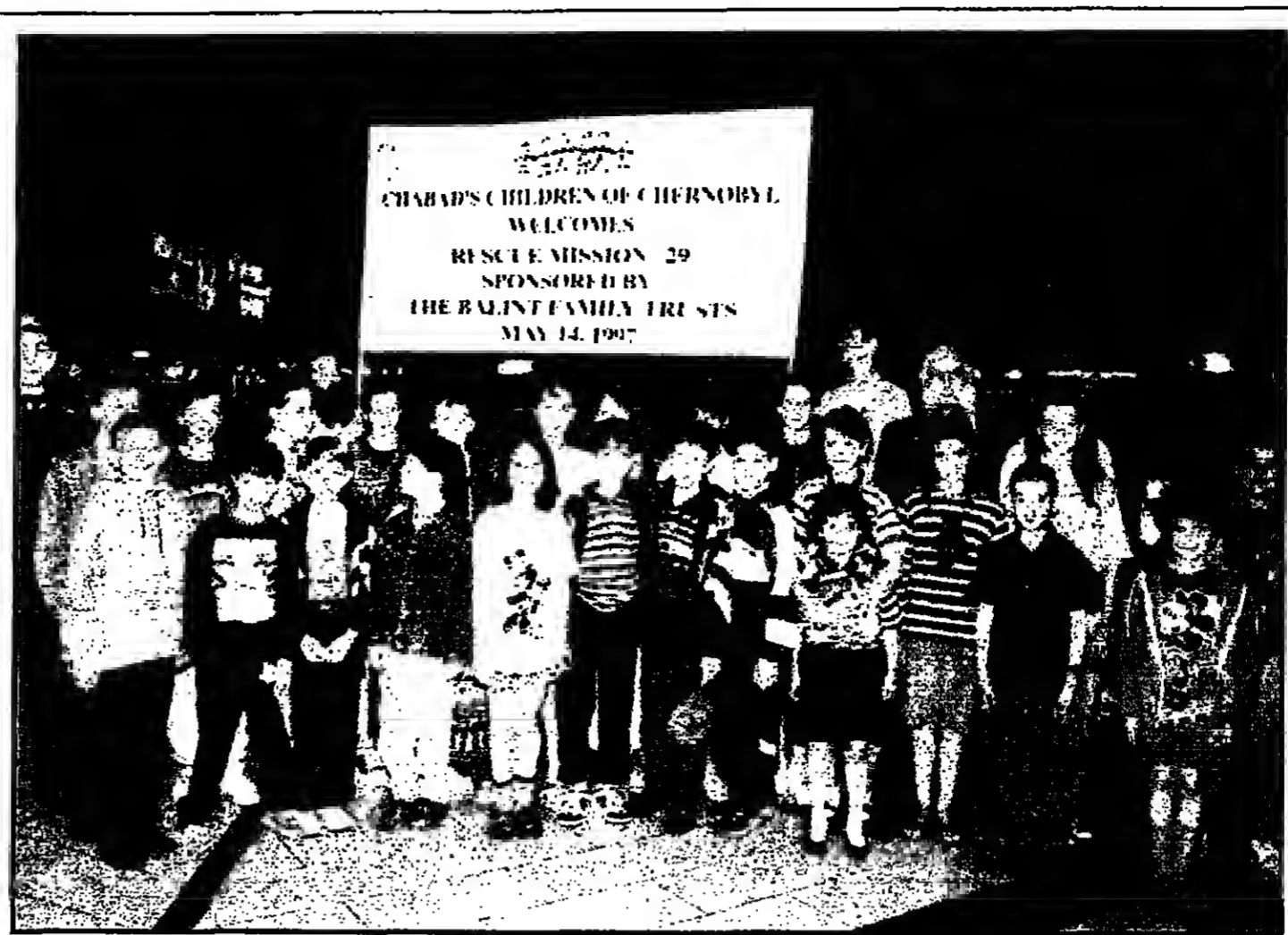
to indict him."

But, she said, "we are studying the court decision and will draw the necessary conclusions."

Responding to public criticism that there have been too many indictments against public figures who are later acquitted, Arbel said: "I don't wish to keep statistics... there are many acquittals and many convictions."

She noted that there is a long process of investigation and consultation before an indictment is presented. This, she said, is true not only of public figures, but of anyone suspected of a crime.

"We are aware, too, that there may be motives of political rivalry against a public figure," when allegations are made, she said. Nevertheless, "it is essential that we all demand there be a high standard of ethics" among those who are in the public eye.



Chernobyl children
Twenty-five children, ranging in age from seven to 13, arrive on the 29th Habad flight from Chernobyl last Thursday. The flight brings to 1,457 the number of children evacuated by Habad since the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

Localities to intensify protest actions today

The local authorities said they would close schools and shut down most local services beginning this morning, in an attempt to pressure the government to help solve their debt crisis.

Some 3,000 people took part in a demonstration opposite the Prime Minister's Office on Friday, sponsored by the Union of Local Authorities. ULA leaders met with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Finance Minister Dan Meridor, and Interior Minister Eli Suissa after the protest.

The leaders claimed in the meeting that the government is not honoring signed agreements, thus creating an intolerable situation in which services are given to local residents without funding.

After the meeting, the ULA chairman Adi Eldar complained that Netanyahu was continuing to "throw sand in the face of the ULA leaders and continuing to harm residents of local authorities." Netanyahu's way of dealing with the crisis is not acceptable to the ULA, Eldar said.

Netanyahu promised the local leaders that Meridor and Suissa will be consulted soon in an attempt to solve the problem, the Prime Minister's Office said, in a statement. (Itim)

Pupils protest 'bagrut' decision

The National Student Council plans to petition the High Court of Justice against the Education Ministry decision to have a committee decide which three matriculation exams are to be optional this year, rather than have a computer choose the exams to be dropped. Pupils also plan to demonstrate tonight at Kikar Rabin. Pupils at many high schools around the country did not come to class on Friday, also to protest the decision. (Itim)

New fertility hormones promising

By JUDY SEGEL

Three new genetically engineered fertility hormones are undergoing clinical trials at a number of Israeli hospitals.

The recombinant gonadotropins, all made by Ares-Serono of Switzerland, overcome the problems posed by the natural versions of these drugs, which are processed from the urine of menopausal or pregnant women.

Ares-Serono this week announced the first birth following fertility treatment with the drugs - Gonaf (human follicle stimulating hormone), LHadi (human luteinizing hormone), and Ovidrel (human chorionic gonadotropin).

The healthy baby boy was delivered in March after his mother was treated at Middlesex Hospital in London for failure to ovulate due to the lack of hormone secretion.

Company representative Ernesto Bertarelli called the baby's birth "a turning point in the history of drug development in the field of infertility, as we are now able to treat this condition with the full range of recombinant fertility hormones developed by Ares-Serono... I am sure that, in just a few years, biosynthetic hormones will replace all the preparations derived from human urine currently in use."

The series of drugs induces the growth and maturation of ovarian follicles and then trigger ovulation.

The natural forms of the three hormones have been used to treat both female and male infertility since the 1960s. Since the early '80s, they have also been used to induce the growth of multiple follicles in the ovaries of women needing in-vitro fertilization.

The demand for urine-derived hormones grew tremendously during the past decade, causing a serious shortage. The most common source of the urine was nurseries.

In addition to providing an unlimited supply, recombinant techniques control production fully at all steps and the synthetic drugs are pure, containing none of the extraneous proteins that couldn't be eliminated from urine.

The Health Ministry approved the marketing of Gonaf here



Sebastian, the baby born in London in March after his mother underwent fertility treatments with a trio of genetically engineered drugs.

last month, and a number of babies have already been born following treatment of their mothers during clinical trials at nine local hospitals. Now Ares-Serono is carrying out clinical trials of the trio of recombinant hormones at several hospitals.

Winning cards

In Friday's Chance drawing, the winning cards were the jack of spades, 10 of hearts, 8 of diamonds, and jack of clubs.

Golani run begins today

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The traditional five-day Golani Brigade run from the Hermon to Eilat takes off today and will pass through 50 towns and villages throughout the country.

This year's run is the 17th. Last year's run was canceled for financial reasons.

Instead of following one long route, each day groups of soldiers belonging to the Golani Brigade's training battalion will run in various parts of the country under the brigade banner. All battalion soldiers will take part in the 675 kilometer run.

This year's run will be in commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Six Day War and will also place special emphasis to the environment. Golani troops will spend part of the week cleaning up the Hula Valley, the Amipat's fortress near Rosh Ha'ayin, and the Negev monument near Beersheba.

OC Northern Command Maj-Gen. Amiram Levine is to officially start the northern leg of the run in Kiryat Shmooa at 8:30 this morning.

LIBI - The Fund for Strengthening Israel's Defense

The LIBI FUND Thanks The Jerusalem Post

The Jerusalem Post has provided assistance to the Libi Fund since it was first established.

At a ceremony held recently at the Libi Fund office, Chairman of the fund, General Danny Matt (Res.), awarded the paper a certificate of appreciation for its long-time efforts on behalf of the fund.

The certificate was received by Mr. Avi Golan, Executive Vice-President, of The Jerusalem Post, and Mr. Benzi Miller, manager of the Tel Aviv office.



In the picture: (left to right): Libi Fund Chairman General Danny Matt (Res.), Mr. Avi Golan and Mr. Benzi Miller.

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